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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 22, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable PAUL E. GILLMOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Adrian Condit, Baptist Pastor, retired, Ceres, California, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, as we come into Your holy presence this morning, we come, first of all, to give You praise and thanks for Your abundant grace that has abounded to us. We thank You as individuals, for we have all tasted of Your kindness to us through our Lord Jesus Christ in our homes throughout our great Nation. For over 200 years, Your hand of mercy has been extended to us many times, in war, through our social ills, and in times of economic distress. And today we stand at the threshold, Our Father, of turning the corner into the 21st Century.

As I stand here in this hallowed place, I feel so very small and so very humble, but I know that I am praying to the Creator of heaven and earth. I am praying for these men and women who stand before me here today, for they have the power to make decisions that affect people's lives, and sometimes change their lives forever; and if anyone ever needed wisdom from above, it is these who stand here in this House and transact business as the government of the people and for the

people. I pray, my Father, for each of them to be very sensitive to Your presence and to Your leadership in their lives.

I especially pray for my own son, Congressman GARY CONDIT. Father, You know that I am very proud of him, and ask for Your special touch upon his life.

As we write the last chapter of this century, may we not forget the words of Our Loving Lord, when He said, "A house divided against itself shall not stand."

I pray that we will see a state of unity in this House among both parties; that we may finish our task and be able to write a chapter of success and achievements that will usher in the new century, blessed by God Almighty, giving hope and life for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and to as many generations for as long as time permits.

May we be able to say with truth that we are one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

In the name of our Loving Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONDIT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under

God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate passed a bill of the following title, in which concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 414. An act to amend the Shipping Act of 1984 to encourage competition in international shipping and growth of United States exports, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There will be 15 1-minute speeches on each side this morning, following the 1-minute from the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT).

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST CHAPLAIN ADRIAN CONDIT

(Mr. CONDIT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, a moment ago we heard the opening prayer presented by my father, the Reverend Adrian Condit. I want to thank the Speaker, as well as Chaplain Ford, for extending this courtesy to my father.

My family has been honored that my father has been allowed the privilege of offering the opening prayer both here and in Sacramento before the California State legislature. Along with my family, I deeply appreciate this privilege and honor. I benefited from his counsel throughout my life, and I am proud to be able to share him with you this morning; to share him with my colleagues and the Nation.

There are three generations of Condits here today. In addition to my father, my son, Chad, is here in the gallery as well.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you a lot. This means a lot to us this morning. This is a memory that the Condit family will cherish for a long time. I want to thank you for allowing us this opportunity this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid references to the gallery.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT WORKS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues, and as well, the American people, that the tax limitation amendment works. Fourteen States have now adopted language that includes tax limitations, including my home State of Nevada.

In tax limitation States, taxes grow more slowly and government spending grows more slowly. On the other hand, the economies expand faster and the job base grows more quickly. Today, we have an opportunity to allow the Federal Government and the national economy to get the same benefits.

It is helpful for us to remember that after taking control in 1994, the Republican Congress balanced the Federal budget for the first time in a generation. It was done by reducing wasteful government spending, not by raising taxes.

Now that we have reached a balanced budget, the tax limitation constitutional amendment will ensure that future Congresses do not resort to the old "tax and spend" ways of the past. This legislation makes raising taxes on the American people exactly what it should be, a last resort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important and much-needed legislation.

SCHEDULE VOTE ON TOBACCO LEGISLATION TODAY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for years tobacco companies have set their sights on America's young people, pinpointing the most appealing way to market their product to them, and deliberately hooking our kids on cigarettes.

A 1984 R.J. Reynolds marketing report says it all: Young people are the "only source of replacement smokers," and that if kids "turn away from smoking, the industry must decline, just as the population which does not give birth will eventually dwindle."

Yet the Republican leadership has refused to act to protect our kids from

this deadly habit, perhaps because the tobacco companies are the largest corporate contributors to the Republican Party.

Every day the Republican leadership fails to schedule debate on comprehensive tobacco legislation, 3,000 more kids in America will pick up this deadly habit, and 1,000 of them will eventually die of a tobacco-related illness.

Mr. Speaker, do the right thing. Schedule a vote on tobacco legislation today.

TIME TO HEAL WOUNDS IN SOCIETY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, once again the New York Stock Exchange has set a new record as it presses on to the 10,000 mark. Our economy is strong nationwide, consumer confidence is very high, and unemployment is at its lowest point, with 2,200,000 people working today that were on welfare in 1994.

With all the good things that are happening today, with all the benefits from being the strongest market in the world, we have overlooked this emptiness in our Nation's soul. The symptoms are everywhere. They are in the paper, on the radio, on prime time television. People no longer honor their commitments, driving divorces up in America. Spousal abuse is up as people deal with life's frustrations without consideration for each other. Children are abused and forgotten in the whole process as people try to put their lives back together again.

Let us heal these wounds in our society by returning to faith in God and the values and virtues that built this great Nation.

BEST FOREIGN POLICY IN CHINA'S HISTORY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, with \$60 billion, China buys California naval bases, missiles, attack aircraft, nuclear submarines. If that is not enough to tax your limitation, China then sells missiles to Iran and Pakistan to get more money, and then they use that money to control the Panama Canal.

Now, if that is not enough, folks, check this out: An American company recently gave missile secrets to China that the Pentagon admits these secrets can help China hit every American city right between the eyes with one of their nuclear missiles. Beam me up.

When is the White House going to realize that America has crafted the best foreign policy in China's history?

I yield back the balance of any common sense left in our Capitol.

PAY DOWN THE DEBT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, welcome back to all my colleagues from the Easter break work period. I am interested in hearing the collective view of our Nation's citizens from my colleagues. I will share mine.

From the 20th District of Illinois comes one consistent message on the budget surplus: Pay down the debt. Pay down the debt. Pay down the debt. It is the best way to ensure economic growth and opportunity for all, and the most important method of ensuring Social Security.

Let us work toward that end.

BEGIN WITH CONSERVING THE HEALTH OF AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is alarming, but hardly surprising, to find the House Republican leadership continuing to do the bidding of the tobacco lobby. Within the last few days, the Speaker has declared that Joe Camel had nothing to do with youth smoking, and today the House Republican whip has opposed efforts in an article in the Wall Street Journal, of course, to reduce youth smoking by raising the price of tobacco.

This is the same House Republican leadership that last year thought the way to a tobacco settlement was to approve a \$50 billion tax break for the tobacco lobby. The only thing I can find to agree on this subject with Speaker GINGRICH on is we need a conservative approach, a very conservative approach that begins with conserving the health of America's young people; not protecting the nicotine peddlers who have exploited them at the same time they have funded the Republican Party.

FREE NEEDLE POLICY WRONG

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what can we say about the Enabler in Chief, who has just announced a policy that will actually put the Federal Government in the business of handing out needles to illegal drug users?

The government often does stupid things. The American people know that, and they despair at many of the dumb things the government tries to do. But the government should not be doing dangerous things, especially when people are at their most vulnerable, and they are the ones who will suffer the consequences.